

Message Text

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ACTION BIB-01

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MUNICH 1755

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR CLASSIFICATION CONF VICE LOU

FOR ROBERTS/BIB

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, ETAL, XH, XF, IS
SUBJECT: JACOBS TDY ISRAEL: RESULTS EXPLORATORY TALKS
CONCERNING POSSIBLE USE GOI BROADCASTING FACILITIES
BY BIB

SUMMARY: EXPLORATORY TALKS WITH GOI OFFICIALS INDICATED CON-
SIDERABLE INTEREST AND GOOD CHANCE FOR RECEPTIVE ATTITUDE IF
AND WHEN USG APPROACHES GOI FORMALLY FOR USE OF GOI BROADCASTING
FACILITIES FOR BIB FUNDED BROADCASTS TO SOVIET UNION. END SUMMARY.

1. MEETINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF MINISTRIES OF COMMUNICATIONS
(MOC) AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) WERE HELD IN TEL AVIV ON MAY 26
AND JUNE 2 AND IN JERUSALEM ON JUNE 5. JACOBS EMPHASIZED THE
EXPLORATORY AND INFORMAL NATURE OF THE DISCUSSIONS AND THE
FACT THAT SUBJECT HAD NOT YET BEEN DISCUSSED WITHIN USG,
OUTSIDE OF BIB.

2. JACOBS SUMMARIZED RESULTS OF RECENT PRESIDENTIAL STUDY
OF U.S. INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE
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FOR ADDITIONAL TRANSMITTERS. HE STRESSED THAT PLANS WERE GOING
FORWARD FOR PLACING RECOMMENDED BIB TRANSMITTERS AT EXISTING
RFE/RL INSTALLATIONS IN GERMANY, PORTUGAL AND SPAIN, BUT THAT
WHILE VERY UNLIKELY, CERTAIN CONDITIONS MIGHT DEVELOP WHICH
COULD REQUIRE THE INSTALLATION OF AS MANY AS FOUR TRANSMITTERS AT
A COMPLETELY NEW LOCATION. SINCE TECHNICAL STUDIES HAVE SHOWN
THAT ISRAEL IS WITHIN GEOGRAPHICALLY OPTIMUM LOCATION FOR BROAD-

CASTING TO EUROPEAN AND CENTRAL ASIAN AREAS OF SOVIET UNION, BIB WANTED TO EXPLORE ISRAELI VIEWS ON POSSIBILITY OF USING GOI BROADCASTING FACILITIES.

3. INITIAL MEETING HELD IN TEL AVIV MAY 26 WITH MOC OFFICIALS HEADED BY Y. NITZAN. HE POINTED OUT THAT ARRANGEMENT WITH GOI MIGHT BE POSSIBLE SIMILAR TO EXISTING ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN VOA AND BBC. MOC COULD INSTALL TRANSMITTERS AND OPERATE THEM AS MOC FACILITIES, MAKING TIME AVAILABLE FOR THE RELAY OF BIB FUNDED BROADCASTS TO THE SOVIET UNION. BIB WOULD PROVIDE THE TRANSMITTERS AND PAY FOR THEIR INSTALLATION AND OPERATION. NITZAN SAW NO TECHNICAL PROBLEMS IN SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT, POINTING OUT THAT ADEQUATE SPACE WAS AVAILABLE AT THE MAIN MOC BROADCASTING CENTER AT YAVNE FOR UP TO FOUR ADDITIONAL 250 KW SHORTWAVE TRANSMITTERS AND NECESSARY ANTENNAS. NITZAN SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER WITH THE MFA.

4. ON JUNE 2 A MEETING WAS HELD IN TEL AVIV BETWEEN JACOBS, NITZAN AND ZVI NEZER OF THE MFA. NEZER IS A SOVIET EXPERT AND MFA LIAISON WITH MOC FOR GOI BROADCASTS TO THE SOVIET UNION. NEZER SAID MATTER OF POSSIBLE USE OF GOI BROADCASTING FACILITIES BY BIB HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN MFA, AND THAT CHANCES WERE GOOD THAT MFA COULD BE SUPPORTIVE.

5. THIRD MEETING WAS HELD IN JERUSALEM ON JUNE 5, CHAIRED BY MAJ. GEN (RET.) M. GIDRON, DIRECTOR-GENERAL MOC. HE WAS AUTHORIZED TO SAY THAT BOTH THE MOC AND MFA WOULD BE VERY INTERESTED IN MAKING AVAILABLE GOI BROADCASTING FACILITIES FOR RELAY OF BIB FUNDED BROADCASTS TO SOVIET UNION, BUT THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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FINAL DECISION WOULD REST WITH PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, IF AND WHEN FORMAL APPROACH MADE BY USG. GIDRON STRESSED THAT WHILE IT NOT POSSIBLE NOW TO ASSESS PMO REACTION, IN HIS OPINION MOC AND MFA SUPPORT WOULD CARRY A LOT OF WEIGHT.

6. ALTHOUGH POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS REMAIN TO BE ASSESSED, JACOBS BELIEVES THAT TALKS HAVE OPENED DOOR FOR USG FOLLOW-UP IF EVER IT BECOMES NECESSARY OR ADVISABLE TO DO SO.

TIME DID NOT PERMIT PREPARATION AND TRANSMISSION OF THIS REPORT FROM TEL AVIV, BUT ITS CONTENTS WERE DISCUSSED WITH PAO MOSS BEFORE JACOBS' DEPARTURE.
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Sent Date: 13-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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